AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 21, and amend claims 6, 9-13, 15 and 18-20. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of the foregoing amendments. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. - 5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** An optical isolator comprising:

a first stage configured to refract a light ray applied in a forward direction into a first ray and a second ray, the first stage having a first core including a first birefringent wedge with a first ~~optical~~ optic axis, and the first core also including a second birefringent wedge with a second ~~optical~~ optic axis that is different from the first ~~optical~~ optic axis; and

a second stage mechanically rotated about 90° with respect to said first stage and configured to refract said first and second rays in a substantially parallel manner, the second stage having a second core including a third birefringent wedge with a third ~~optical~~ optic axis that is rotated about 45° with respect to the ~~optical~~ optic axis of the first birefringent wedge, and the second core also including a fourth birefringent wedge with a fourth ~~optical~~ optic axis that is rotated about 45° with respect to the ~~optical~~ optic axis of the second birefringent wedge.

7. **(Previously presented)** The optical isolator of claim 6, wherein said first ray is an e-ray with respect to said first stage and is an o-ray with respect to said second stage, and said second ray is an o-ray with respect to said first stage and is an e-ray with respect to said second stage.

8. **(Original)** The optical isolator of claim 7 further configured such that said e- and o-ray exit from said second stage having orthogonal polarizations and separated by a walk-off distance, thereby forming a plane.

9. **(Currently amended)** The optical isolator of claim 8, wherein said first stage comprises a first Faraday rotator disposed between said first and second birefringent wedges having a polarization

plane rotation of about 45°, wherein the first birefringent ~~wedge is a birefringent wedge having~~ has a first wedge angle and the second birefringent wedge ~~is a birefringent wedge having~~ has a second wedge angle.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 9, wherein said first and second wedge angles are substantially equal in magnitude.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said first Faraday rotator is configured to rotate the polarization of applied light by about 45°.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 9, wherein said second stage comprises a second Faraday rotator disposed between said third and fourth birefringent wedges having polarization plane rotating angle of about 45°, ~~wherein the third wedge is a birefringent wedge and the fourth wedge is a birefringent wedge and~~ wherein the third ~~optical~~ optic axis of the third birefringent wedge is about 90 degrees apart from the second ~~optical~~ optic axis of the second birefringent wedge and the fourth ~~optical~~ optic axis is about 45 degrees apart from the third ~~optical~~ optic axis.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 12, wherein said second Faraday rotator is configured to rotate the polarization of applied light by about 45°.

14. **(Previously presented)** The optical isolator of claim 13, wherein a rotation direction of said first and second Faraday rotators is at least one of a same and opposite direction.

15. **(Currently Amended)** An optical isolator comprising:

first means for refracting a light ray applied in a forward direction into a first ray and a second ray, wherein the first means includes a first birefringent wedge and a second birefringent wedge, the first birefringent wedge having a first ~~optical~~ optic axis that is different from a second ~~optical~~ optic axis of the second birefringent wedge; and

second means, mechanically rotated about 90° with respect to said first means, for refracting said first and second rays in a substantially parallel manner, wherein the second means includes a third birefringent wedge having a third ~~optical~~ optic axis that is rotated about 45° with

respect to the first ~~optical~~ optic axis and a fourth birefringent wedge having a fourth ~~optical~~ optic axis that is rotated about 45° with respect to the second ~~optical~~ optic axis.

16. **(Original)** The optical isolator of claim 15, wherein said first ray is an e-ray with respect to said first means and is an o-ray with respect to said second means, and said second ray is the o-ray with respect to said rust means and is the e-ray with respect to said second means.

17. **(Original)** The optical isolator of claim 16, wherein said e- and o-rays exit from said second means having orthogonal polarizations and separated by a walk-off distance, thereby forming a plane.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 17, wherein said first means comprises a first rotator means disposed between said first and second birefringent wedges for rotating a polarization plane of applied light by about 45°, the first birefringent wedge having a first angle and the second birefringent wedge having a second angle.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 18, wherein said first and second angles are substantially equal in magnitude.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The optical isolator of claim 18, wherein said second means comprises a second rotator means disposed between said third and fourth birefringent wedges for rotating a polarization plane of applied light by about 45°, wherein the third birefringent wedge has a third angle and the fourth birefringent wedge has a fourth angle.

21. **(Canceled)**